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Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

ISO-00 EA-06 IOE-00 /044 W
---------- 103842
P R 181638Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7629
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06877

NESCO

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, PROP, UNESCO

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF UNESCO IN CELEBRATION OF THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND
WORLD WAR

SUMMARY: DEPT. WILL RECALL THAT ON NOV. 23, 1975,
UNESCO 18TH GEN. CONFERENCE ADOPTED SOVIET SPONSORED
RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT MATTER WHICH, INTER ALIA, "RECOM-
MENDS THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD UNDERTAKE APPRO-
PRIATE MEASURES TO INSURE UNESCO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE
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CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT BY

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MEANS OF SPECIFIC EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES." IT SHOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT SOVIETS REJECTED US AND OTHERS MOVES TO DELETE MOST OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE FROM THEIR PROPAGANDA-LOADED TEXT AND WON PASSAGE OF UNCHANGED TEXT BY ROLL-CALL VOTE, AT UKRAINE'S REQUEST, OF 36 TO 11 (US, UK, FRANCE, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, ISRAEL, IRELAND, JAPAN, GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA) WITH 45 ABSTENTIONS (INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, ITALY, FRG AND PRC) AND 43 ABSENT, PRIMARILY AFRICANS, LA'S AND ASIANS. TO ASCERTAIN WHAT MEASURES DG IS CONTEMPLATING UNDERTAKE TO IMPLEMENT ABOVE RESOLUTION, DEPUTY PERMREP TURNED TO NUMBER OF WELL INFORMED SECRETARIAT SOURCES. FOLLOWING IS HIS STATUS REPORT WHICH CLEARLY INDICATES WELL ORCHESTRATED SOVIET "OFFENSIVE" DESIGNED TO EXPLOIT SUBJECT ANNIVERSARY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. END OF SUMMARY.

1. SUBJECT CELEBRATION WAS SPECIFICALLY RAISED AND DISCUSSED IN GREAT DETAIL BY HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'BOW DURING DG'S EARLY JANUARY VISIT TO MOSCOW. SUBSEQUENTLY, M'BOW RECEIVED IN WRITING CONFIRMATION OF SOVIET PROPOSALS FROM ZEMSKOV, CHAIRMAN OF USSR NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF USSR, AND PIRADOV, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO. PARALLEL SUGGESTIONS WERE ALSO SENT IN BY CHAIRMAN OF EAST EUROPEAN GROUP AT UNESCO, AMBASSADOR GREGUS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. M'BOW HAS NOW AUTHORIZED $15,000 FROM UNESCO REGULAR BUDGET TO BE EXPENDED FOR VARIOUS COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES WHICH FALL INTO 5 MAIN CATEGORIES, I.E., PUBLICATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, FILMS, INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES DURING MAY SESSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

2. PUBLICATIONS. SPECIAL ARTICLES ON SUBJECT ANNIVERSARY WILL BE ISSUED IN REGULAR PERIODICALS OF THE ORGANIZATION (SUCH AS "UNESCO FEATURES," "UNESCO CHRONICLE, " "IMPACT," "PERSPECTIVES" AND THE "INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL"). PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL FEATURES FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION CONFIDENTIAL

PROGRAMS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. ALSO ANTICIPATED IS SPECIAL ISSUE (PROBABLY NOV. 1975) OF UNESCO COURIER TO BE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO SUBJECT MATTER.

3. EXHIBITIONS. A PHOTOGRAPHIC AND LITERARY EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING THE OCCASION AS WELL AS SPECIAL EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO "HEROIC DEFENSE OF LENINGRAD IN 1942" WILL BE ORGANIZED AT UNESCO HQ DURING 40-MEMBER EXECU-

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TIVE BOARD SESSION IN MAY. PHOTOS AND OTHER MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED BY SOVIET WAR MUSEUM.

4. FILMS. ONE WEEK OF SHOWING OF SOVIET FILMS, SELECTED AND OPERATED BY SOVFILM PERSONNEL, DEVOTED TO SECOND WORLD WAR WILL ALSO BE ORGANIZED DURING ABOVE MENTIONED EXBD SESSION IN MAY.

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

EUR-12 EA-06 IOE-00 /044 W
---------- 104155
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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5. AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE SAID OCCASION WILL BE ATTENDED BY SOME 15 - 20 PERSONALITIES FROM VARIOUS

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COUNTRIES AND WILL BE HELD PROBABLY IN WARSAW, POLAND.

6. ACCORDING TO FRENCH PERMDEL, COMMEMORATIVE RECEPTION AT UNESCO HQ WILL BE ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION (CATEGORY "B" NGO WITH UNESCO) ON MAY 10 WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING WIDEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION OF VETERANS FROM ALL COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN VICTORY OF ALLIED FORCES IN WWII. FRENCH SHOWED DELOFF LETTER TO UNESCO REQUESTING CONFIDENTIAL

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USE OF ROOM FROM FRENCH "REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS AND WAR VICTIMS" -- WHICH DESCRIBED AS COMMUNIST FRONT -- STATING THAT CONTINGENTS FROM USA, ITALY, FRG (SIC), SPAIN (SIC), BULGARIA AND USSR WILL PARTICIPATE IN PLANNED RECEPTION FOR "500 - 700" PERSONS.

7. FINALLY, A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY DURING MAY EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION IS EXPECTED TO BE PROPOSED BY AMB. KUTAKOV, SOVIET MEMBER OF EXBD OF UNESCO.

8. COMMENT: QUICK CHECK WITH SELECTED WESTERN PERMDELS HERE INDICATES GENERAL LACK OF AWARENESS OF ABOVE DETAIL PREPARATIONS AND RELUCTANCE TO GET INVOLVED IN SUBJECT CELEBRATION. ALL THEY COULD SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING SUBJECT MATTER. ALL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING WHAT POSITION USG WILL TAKE CONCERNING MATTER AND ANTICIPATE THAT PRELIMINARY "INSTRUCTION" THEIR HOME CAPITALS WILL BE TO DETERMINE REACTIONS OF OTHER MAJOR WWII ALLIES.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS. AS NOTED ABOVE MOST OF WESTERN MEMBERS, AS WELL AS JAPAN, VOTED AGAINST SOVIET WWII RESOLUTION AT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE LAST NOVEMBER. HOWEVER, PERMDEL BELIEVES THAT THESE MEMBER STATES UNLIKELY TO CONTINUE OPPOSITION BECAUSE OF STILL VERY VIVID AND EMOTIONAL MEMORIES OF WWII IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT MOST WILL DECIDE ON PASSIVE ACQUIESENCE TO HIGHLY ORGANIZED SOVIET PROPAGANDA EFFORT AS "EASIEST" WAY OUT. SOVIETS MAY INDEED ANTICIPATE WESTERN REACTION OF THIS TYPE WHICH WOULD YIELD TWO-FOLD BENEFITS OF "ENDORSEMENT" BY ACQUIESENCE BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO PERMIT THEM TO SHAPE UNHINDERED THE THEMES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES.

WE THEREFORE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DEPT. CONSIDER ACTIVE US EFFORT, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER WWII ALLIES, TO SEEK OBJECTIVES AND BALANCED UNESCO COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVI-

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TIES RATHER THAN LEAVING FIELD ENTIRELY TO SOVIET EX-
PLOIT. IN COOPERATION WITH WESTERN WWII ALLIES DEPART-
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MENT MIGHT AS MINIMUM CONSIDER APPROPRIATE US PARTICIPA-
TION IN (A) PROJECTED INTERNATIONAL FORUM (WHICH IN THAT
EVENT' SHOULD AND COULD BE HELD AT HEADQUARTERS RATHER
THAN WARSAW), (B) COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY OF VETERANS,
AND (C) SPECIAL ISSUE OF UNESCO COURIER.

US PERMDEL RECOMMENDS THAT ACTION EMBASSIES BE REQUESTED
TO SOUND OUT EXTENT OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF HOST
GOVERNMENTS IN SUBJECT CELEBRATION. ANY COMMENTS FROM
INFO EMBASSIES WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED.
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